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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/713,215	11/16/2000	YASUNAGA KAYAMA	107314	2926

25944 7590 05/15/2002

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EXAMINER

KIM, PETER B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2851	

DATE MAILED: 05/15/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/713,215	KAYAMA, YASUNAGA
	Examiner Peter B Kim	Art Unit 2851

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 - 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 - 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.
- Disposition of Claims**
- 4) Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 - 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 - 6) Claim(s) 1-41 is/are rejected.
 - 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 - 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>4</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Japan on Nov. 19, 1999. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the Japanese application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 13-17, 27-29 and 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding Claims 13, 27 and 39, it is unclear whether an "object" is referring to the mask or the substrate since both terms mask and substrate are used in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-7, 9-12, 18-24, 26-36 and 38-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akimoto et al. (Akimoto) (6,359,688) in view of Hayashi (6,036,162).

Akimoto discloses an exposure apparatus and a method of making an exposure apparatus and a method of exposing a pattern of a mask (7) onto a substrate or an object (W), with a projection system (PO), a holder (not shown) to hold the projection system, acceleration detector (16UY, 16Dy) located on the projection system to detect information concerning displacement of the projection system, an actuator (34), a driver connected to the actuator to drive the actuator in response to detection results of the detector (Fig. 2). Akimoto also discloses actuator including piezoelectric elements (col. 12, lines 13-16), a mask stage (8, 9) for holding and moving the mask, and a substrate stage or an object stage (12, 15) for moving and holding the substrate or the object. However, Akimoto does not disclose the actuator arranged on the holder for holding the projection system. Hayashi discloses in Figure 7, an exposure apparatus and method where the actuators (235) are located in the holder (224) and the acceleration detectors are located on the holder. Although, Akimoto and Hayashi does not disclose a distortion sensor, since both references discloses the acceleration sensor which detects oscillation, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use distortion sensor. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the actuators on the holder and the acceleration detectors on the holder in order to reduce deformation of the apparatus and effectively suppress the vibration with high degree of accuracy (col. 4, lines 52-64).

7. Claims 8, 13-17, 25 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akimoto et al. (Akimoto) in view of Hayashi as applied to claims 1, 18 and 30 above, and further in view of Watson (5,959,427).

The further difference between modified Akimoto and the claimed invention is the exposure apparatus comprising a compensatory driving system that applied compensatory force to the stationary part of the object stage drive system. Watson discloses in Figure 3, an object stage drive system that includes movable part and stationary part and a compensatory driving system applies force to stationary part of the stage drive system and a compensatory driving system (60, 62) that applied force to the stationary part. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide a compensatory driving system to the invention of Akimoto in order to ensure that there is no uncancelled reaction moment and no disturbance of the base stability (the abstract of Watson).

Remarks

On page 10 of the specification, the accelerator sensor is described as detecting "slight oscillation," and on page 12, the distortion sensor is described as detecting "fine oscillation." Since the acceleration sensor of Akimoto and Hayashi both detect oscillation it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to substitute a distortion sensor for an acceleration sensor.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Kim whose telephone number is (703) 305-0105.

Art Unit: 2851

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays during the same hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russ Adams, can be reached on (703) 308-2847. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

PBK
5/14/02



RUSSELL ADAMS
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